IMPROVING BACKHAUL IN CELLULAR MOBILE COMMUNICATIONS NETWORKS

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A cellular mobile communications network includes a base station controller (30) and an array of base transceiver stations (20), each having a communications path (5) connecting it to the base station controller (30), such that when an uplink signal is received from a mobile station (10) of the network by a plurality of the base transceiver stations (20) of the array, each base transceiver station (20) of the plurality can transfer the received uplink signal via its communications path (5) to the base station controller (30). The communications paths (5) are assessed according to one or more predetermined characteristics, and based on this assessment, at least one base transceiver station (20) of the plurality is prevented from transferring the received uplink signal to the base station controller (30).

In such a cellular mobile communications network, if, for example, a particular communication path (5) is experiencing heavy traffic, then further congestion can be prevented by not sending further signals along that path. Network operating costs can also be reduced by diverting traffic away from costly communications paths (5).

[Fig. 5]